The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, converted to the market, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Absurdity refutes itself.—Bartholin.

WHOLE NO. 952. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 17.

## Coal Miners' Strike Justified; Bosses' Claim Proven Untrue

Indianapolis, July 6.—When organized miners struck to maintain the Jacksonville agreement they were denounced by "molders of public opinion" who insisted that low wages would bring prosperity to that industry.

"Your position is uneconomic," cried these advisors of mine workers. The latter were finally defeated because of Communists, injunction judges and a manufactured hostile public opinion.

These advisors, however, are silent as the industry is prostrate and wages are cut to the starvation point.

Reports to the United Mine Workers' headquarters show that the contract-breaking companies have broken every promise made to workers whom they induced to desert the union and small business men in mining sections throughout the country are bankrupt.

In the Pomeroy and Hocking fields, Ohio, production is less than one-third normal. In western Kentucky, where unionism has been destroyed and wages driven to the lowest point, miners average two and one-half days a week.

In central Pennsylvania non-unionism, low wages and a two-day week is the rule. Still lower wages is predicted in that section.

Around Pittsburgh, the same conditions prevail. The Pittsburgh Coal Company, leader in the contract repudiation policy that forced the strike, has reduced wages five times since it promised steady employment and "reasonable wages" if miners would aid its violation of the Jacksonville agreement.

"These facts bear out every assertion by the United Mine Workers of America," declares the United Mine Workers' Journal. "Low wages will not bring prosperity to the coal industry. If they would coal miners would be the most prosperous workers in America because their wages have been slashed and slashed until there is little left for further slashing."

### MIDDLE-AGED WORKERS FORCED INTO IDLENESS

San Francisco, July 6.—Middle-aged workers are forced into the unemployed ranks, according to Will J. French, head of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

"The tendency to more and more lower age limits is adding to the ranks of idle wage earners," said Mr. French. "These workers are nearly all capable of doing useful work and they have an experience that time alone can give."

The Department of Industrial Relations will hold conferences with employers and employes in one or more of the State's industries where the age question is acute.

### EMPLOYERS EVADE LAW

Harrisburg, Pa., July 6.—The Department of Labor and Industry orders that all employers who evade the workmen's compensation law be reported. These employers are liable to fine and imprisonment.

## America's Prosperity is "Myth"; Comparative Few Control Wealth

San Francisco, July 6.—America's prosperity, as reported by President Hoover's committee on economics, was declared a "myth" by Mrs. Daisy Worthington Worcester, University of California economics lecturer, in an address to the National Conference on Social Work.

Mrs. Worcester told the conference that this "myth" is believed, will lead to inevitable catastrophe." America's prosperity, she declared, is prosperity for only 24 per cent of the American people and this percentage "owns all the wealth of this country."

"America has piled up wealth equal to $400,000,000,000 and an annual income of $80,000,000,000," Mrs. Worcester continued. "Yet in the time this wealth has been accumulating, public charities have increased their expenditures 132 per cent. The nation's vast income of $80,000,000,000, if equally distributed, would give each man, woman and child $745 a year. Instead, we find that 43 per cent of the total income goes to capital, 10 per cent to salaries and .38 per cent to wages."

## COLOR LINE BARRED IN TRADE UNIONISM

New York, July 6.—Organized labor's refusal to recognize color, sex or creed was again emphasized by Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in an address to several hundred Pullman porters at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in this city.

These workers are being organized and chartered by the A. F. of L.

Communists attempted this usual dividing tactics and the trade unionist declared: "It is such exhibitions as this which have hindered the great work we are trying to do.

"My presence here ought to be an answer to the mischief makers who say the A. F. of L. is not interested in the colored man," asserted Mr. Green. "In 1893 the Federation declared that the working people must unite irrespective of creed, color, race or nationality. The records show we have repeatedly reaffirmed that view. The Federation stands unalterably on the principle of no discrimination. When our movement departs from that fundamental principle it will perish.

"I want to see the Pullman porters and maids wring from an unwilling corporation a wage commensurate with a proper standard of living. These workers benefit very little by public generosity in light. It is the Pullman company which benefits by taking the public's generosity into account when it fixes wages. The wage itself should be large enough to satisfy the needs of a normal life. I know the porters would rather be paid as they deserve and even destroy the tipping custom than go on as they do now. I protest against these injustices."

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES TO URGE NEW WAGE BILL

Washington, July 6.—The National Federation of Federal Employes, affiliated A. F. of L., will urge a new salary bill when Congress convenes in regular session next December.

The Welch bill, passed by the last Congress, was practically annulled by department interpretations.

President Luther Steward and Secretary-Treasurer Gertrude McNally of the Federation of Federal Employes insist that the government should lead in wage standards. Many members of Congress accept this reasoning.

A nation-wide wage survey by the Personnel Classification Board will be used by the federal employes as the basis of their proposed legislation.

## SAFETY CAMPAIGN SET UP FOR LABOR

Albany, N. Y., July 6.—Increased fatalities in industry caused Governor Roosevelt to name a permanent commission of 36 trade unionists to carry on a continuous "safety-in-industry" campaign. John J. Sullivan, president New York Federation of Labor, heads the commission.

"Workers suffer most as a result of these accidents, and it is for that reason I wish to enlist the whole-hearted co-operation of labor in this safety campaign," said the Governor.

## FAMILIES PAUPERIZED BY LOW FEDERAL WAGE

Washington, July 6.—Government employes with salaries under $2,500 a year are generally unable to maintain their families on that income, according to a report by the United States Bureau of Statistics. The following a survey of the cost of living of 506 families of Federal employes in five large cities.

Living for these workers "seems to be from hand to mouth," it is stated. Husbands and wives, and even children in many families, find extra employment to supplement the family income. For families of workers in the lower wage scale the cost of food alone consumes as high as one-third of the entire income.

"Such necessities as coal and ice often were used in limited quantities by many families," it is stated. Dental work was neglected to a large extent, and amusements and vacations could not be afforded by most of the families visited. The husband and wife stated they frequently were so worried over the pressure of debts and current expenses that 'they scarcely knew what to do.'

"It is evident," the report continues, "that families of government employes with salaries under $2,500 are generally unable to maintain themselves. Even with the addition of other income derived from outside work of the husband, earnings of the wife and children, income from boarders and lodgers and from other sources, the majority of these families are incurring expenses in excess of their income."

### STOP GAS WASTE

San Francisco, July 6.—A State law to stop waste of natural gas in this State becomes effective August 31. It is estimated that the loss approximates 600,000,000 cubic feet daily. Every attempt to check destruction of this natural resource by oil well owners failed and the State was compelled to act.

### 27,000 CITY WORKERS GET INCREASE IN SALARY

New York, July 6.—A wage increase of $4,000,000 annually has been granted 27,000 "white collar" municipal employes. The increases range from $100 to $200 annually.

## NEW ALIEN QUOTAS IS NOW EFFECTIVE

Washington, July 6.—The national origins clause of the immigration law became effective July 1, after Congress postponed the date of its enforcement three times and President Hoover attempted to secure its repeal.

The new law is intended to proportion European immigration in accordance with the present racial character of the American population. It will not affect immigration from Mexico or Canada.

Under the new system about 150,000 immigrants will be admitted annually from Europe, as compared with approximately 164,000 under the quota basis. England and Northern Ireland will profit more largely by the new act. The Irish Free State will be cut from 28,567 to 17,852 and current expenses that 'they scarcely knew what to do.'

"It is evident," the report continues, "that families of government employes with salaries under $2,500 are generally unable to maintain themselves. Even with the addition of other income derived from outside work of the husband, earnings of the wife and children, income from boarders and lodgers and from other sources, the majority of these families are incurring expenses in excess of their income."

### STOP GAS WASTE

San Francisco, July 6.—A State law to stop waste of natural gas in this State becomes effective August 31. It is estimated that the loss approximates 600,000,000 cubic feet daily. Every attempt to check destruction of this natural resource by oil well owners failed and the State was compelled to act.

### 27,000 CITY WORKERS GET INCREASE IN SALARY

New York, July 6.—A wage increase of $4,000,000 annually has been granted 27,000 "white collar" municipal employes. The increases range from $100 to $200 annually.

## EMPLOYERS' PENSIONS NEW PEONAGE

About two-thirds of the industrial pension plans reported by the Pennsylvania Old Age Commission have no funds set aside for the payment of pensions. The employers simply make payments out of current income. Nearly all of them are good will promises which can be terminated by the company through merger, going out of business and in many cases simply by a company decision.

The cost of pensions maintained by some of the strongest industrial concerns are becoming so burdensome that many are forced to alter, reduce and abolish their promised disbursements.

Practically all of the pension plans surveyed by the Pennsylvania Commission included in their rules a number of conditions which materially limit the ability of the average employe to qualify for a pension and which also makes it possible to use the existence of the pension system as a means of enforcing plant discipline.

Several allow the board of directors to suspend or terminate pensions if in their judgment the conduct of the pensioner may entail unworthy. Others state that employes going on strike or ceasing work when their services are required will not be eligible for pensions. One company rules that in case of a strike the time prior to retirement. Several firms forbid marriage to certain of their employes under certain conditions under penalty of forfeiting pension rights. Little wonder that Justice Brandeis has called industrial pensions the new peonage.—Prof. Emerson P. Schmidt, University of Oregon.

## *Equity Court Would Break Girls' Strike*

Several hundred girls employed by the General Cigar Company at New Brunswick, N. J., are enjoined. They suspended work to enforce improved conditions.

The girls are prohibited "from inducing or compelling by threats, intimidation, force or violence, any of complainant's employes to leave complainant's service."

Note how cleverly the words "induce" and "compel" are linked.

Any standard dictionary defines "induce" as "to influence; to prevail on; to move by persuasion or influence."

"To compel" is defined as "to force to yield, to overpower, to subjugate."

Threats, intimidation and violence need no definition. These are illegal and should be stopped by every power of government that the law provides. To enjoin an act that is so palpably illegal is an absurdity.

This juggling of terms is necessary, however, to conceal the company's purpose.

If the company told the truth, it would say to the court:

"Your honor, we have plants in several sections of the country, and low wages is necessary to pay 4 per cent on our 'watered' stock. If these girls win, other employes will be encouraged to take similar action. Please help us protect profits by breaking this strike. We ask you to outlaw legal acts by mixing them up with illegal acts that can be stopped by police authorities. If we call on the police we must prove illegality. If you issue the order the girls are placed on the defensive; they must prove their innocence and our spies and private detectives will not be exposed. If the girls employ lawyers we can carry the case to various courts, but in the meantime no girl can appeal to a strike-breaker. When the case is eventually settled, we hope the strike will have been broken."

## CLOAK STRIKE CALLED AGAINST SWEAT SHOP

New York, July 6.—Nearly 30,000 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are involved in a strike against the sweat shop that has crept into that industry, following the Communists'-controlled upheaval three years ago and chain-store competition. Chain stores patronize anti-union, sub-standard shops. The Communists handed the right of organization to employers who have stealthily established sweat shop conditions.

"This 'reorganization' right which Communists gave to employers threw thousands of workers out of shops in which they spent the better part of their lives," the union states in its strike call, that was approved by the membership.

"You were forced to 'seek employment in sweat shops where you had to submit to piece work, long hours, six days a week—all for a low wage. You were at the mercy of every irresponsible contractor in the trade."

The agreement between the union and the employers' association ended June 1, but negotiations for a new agreement continued after that date. The union asks a 40-hour week, modification of reorganization rights affecting discharge and unemployment insurance. The employers would legalize piece work.

## TRADE UNIONS HAVE NO EQUAL

The Federal Radio Commission can see no difference between organized labor and a fraternal organization.

The commission made this statement in its reply to the plea of Chicago Federation of Labor that the District Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia set aside the commission's refusal to award Station WCFL, Chicago, a full time wave length.

If labor were assigned such a wave length, the commission said, fraternal organizations could make the same claim and the number of wave lengths are limited.

The commission should "book up" on trade unionism and its purpose.

Its beneficial social effects make comparison with a fraternal organization out of the question.

Fraternal organizations serve a useful purpose, but their existence is not a social necessity, as is trade unions.

To state this fact is to answer the commission's thoughtless claim that sounds like the Citizen's Alliance, rather than the conclusions of a government unit that has such vast powers over the destinies of the nation.

## VIOLENCE IS FUTILE: MEN URGED TO THINK

Madison, Wis., July 6.—Violence has solved no problem, declared President Glenn Frank of University of Wisconsin in an address to a large graduating class.

"Violence can't protect institutions, kill ideas, terrify men in to agreement or destroy the morale of determined men," said Professor Frank. "The cult of violence and the terror use of force defeats its own object, chiefly because it bars co-operation, the institution in the deeper sense profits by winning a war. The World War was futile as a method of solving the problems of mankind.

"Mankind has two weapons, war and science. In the past science has been used only to perfect the technique of social suicide.

"I am not pleading for an unlimited pacifism or an uncompromising non-resistance. I know that in this imperfect civilization force will continue to figure in the affairs of men. Now and then a statesmanship finds itself backed into a corner, crowded, with neither elbow room or breathing space. In such times force may flourish its sword and hack out an open space in which statesmen have freedom to work, other rooms, breathing space, but that is all that force can do. The open space is not, in itself, a solution of the problems we pursue. The open space is only a fresh challenge to statesmanship."

Professor Glenn urged graduates to be "new liberals," to acquire a mental attitude that is the despair of party managers and Rah-Rah collegiate intelligence into any camp. He termed a university education "merely a method of learning how to learn after leaving college."

## PAINT SPRAYING EVIL IS FINALLY INDORSED

Washington, July 6.—The menace of spray painting machines is generally accepted and trade union agitation has won another victory.

When these machines were being installed, organized painters protested against dangers of spraying of poisonous substances over a large area. The workers were charged with "opposing labor-saving machinery."

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics now reports a list of states that have accepted the painters' position.

Most large and some small plants, it is stated, have installed high-grade equipment, but some small plants ignore protective measures.

The Bureau declares that non-poisonous substitutes for lead and benzol make it unnecessary for spray materials containing harmful ingredients.

## GUNMEN FLOURISH IN LOW WAGE TRADE

Washington, July 6.—Small leather manufacturers in New York operate "by the grace of God, but by the grace of gunmen," Abraham Mittenthal declared before a Senate tariff subcommittee.

The witness represented New York manufacturers who operate on the anti-union basis. He said a strike is probable among these 5,000 workers, all of whom are revolutionists.

He agreed that low wages was the rule and that "some" of their troubles "are due to employment of cheap foreign labor."

## COLLIS LOVELY RESIGNS

Boston, July 6.—John J. Mara is the new president of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, succeeding Collis Lovely, who refused re-election at the recent convention in Rochester. The retiring president is a veteran trade unionist and is well known to members of organized labor.

## VIOLENCE IS FUTILE: MEN URGED TO THINK

Madison, Wis., July 6.—Violence has solved no problem, declared President Glenn Frank of University of Wisconsin in an address to a large graduating class.

"Violence can't protect institutions, kill ideas, terrify men in to agreement or destroy the morale of determined men," said Professor Frank. "The cult of violence and the terror use of force defeats its own object, chiefly because it bars co-operation, the institution in the deeper sense profits by winning a war. The World War was futile as a method of solving the problems of mankind.

"Mankind has two weapons, war and science. In the past science has been used only to perfect the technique of social suicide.

"I am not pleading for an unlimited pacifism or an uncompromising non-resistance. I know that in this imperfect civilization force will continue to figure in the affairs of men. Now and then a statesmanship finds itself backed into a corner, crowded, with neither elbow room or breathing space. In such times force may flourish its sword and hack out an open space in which statesmen have freedom to work, other rooms, breathing space, but that is all that force can do. The open space is not, in itself, a solution of the problems we pursue. The open space is only a fresh challenge to statesmanship."

Professor Glenn urged graduates to be "new liberals," to acquire a mental attitude that is the despair of party managers and Rah-Rah collegiate intelligence into any camp. He termed a university education "merely a method of learning how to learn after leaving college."

## PAINT SPRAYING EVIL IS FINALLY INDORSED

Washington, July 6.—The menace of spray painting machines is generally accepted and trade union agitation has won another victory.

When these machines were being installed, organized painters protested against dangers of spraying of poisonous substances over a large area. The workers were charged with "opposing labor-saving machinery."

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics now reports a list of states that have accepted the painters' position.

Most large and some small plants, it is stated, have installed high-grade equipment, but some small plants ignore protective measures.

The Bureau declares that non-poisonous substitutes for lead and benzol make it unnecessary for spray materials containing harmful ingredients.

## GUNMEN FLOURISH IN LOW WAGE TRADE

Washington, July 6.—Small leather manufacturers in New York operate "by the grace of God, but by the grace of gunmen," Abraham Mittenthal declared before a Senate tariff subcommittee.

The witness represented New York manufacturers who operate on the anti-union basis. He said a strike is probable among these 5,000 workers, all of whom are revolutionists.

He agreed that low wages was the rule and that "some" of their troubles "are due to employment of cheap foreign labor."

## COLLIS LOVELY RESIGNS

Boston, July 6.—John J. Mara is the new president of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, succeeding Collis Lovely, who refused re-election at the recent convention in Rochester. The retiring president is a veteran trade unionist and is well known to members of organized labor.

## FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK WON BY IRON WORKERS

St. Louis, Mo., July 6.—Structural iron workers won their two-months' strike for a five-day week. The victory was complete. The two-year agreement calls for a wage of $13 a day until May 1 next year, when a $14 rate will prevail. Former rates were $12. Iron workers in this city and East St. Louis, Ill., are covered by the agreement and union shop conditions are assured in that area.

This settlement will be of immense value to other building craftsmen," said P. J. Morrin, general president International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers. "Employers feared the building industry. Our success has again proven the value of solidarity and the new standard of wages and conditions will eventually be established elsewhere.

"Statistics show that iron workers in this city are idle 140 days a year, due to slack times, change of employment and weather conditions.

"This is the first time in many years that we have secured a signed agreement from employers."

### *FUTURE HOUSES BUILT BY MASS PRODUCTION*

Boston, July 6.—Dwelling houses in the future will be built by the mass production system, Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant, told delegates to the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

Mr. Filene pictured houses manufactured entirely by machinery, as many makes of automobiles are today, in central factories and in standardized sizes and shapes, by companies controlling under one management "the entire chain of production from raw materials to finished parts, and assembled at the place of sale by the same concern using the same maximum of machine processes up to the final sale of the finished product.

### SIGN WRITERS WIN

Detroit, July 6.—Organized sign writers were locked out April 1 by the Carlson Sign Studios, but after two months' failure to operate on the non-union basis, the concern changed its mind. The agreement calls for the five-day week and a wage increase to $1.20 a day.

The firm is one of the largest of its kind in the Middle West.

### ELECTRICIANS STRIKE

Klamath Falls, Ore., July 6.—Organized electrical workers are striking for a five-day week and wage increase. This movement is indicative of the general tendency among building craftsmen throughout the Pacific Northwest.

## WAGE INCREASE GRANTED

Washington, July 6.—Wage increases ranging from 5 to 10 per cent have been granted 1,500 employes of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, it was announced by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon.

## *Wages "Property," Court Hints In Far-Reaching Labor Decision*

Washington, July 6.—A suggestion by the Federal Court of Appeals, New Orleans district, that wages and prospective wages can be classed as "property" opens up unlimited possibilities.

The decision was made in the case of Brotherhood of Railway Clerks versus Texas & New Orleans Railroad Company. The latter attempted to evade the Railway Labor Act by refusing to recognize a union satisfactory to workers. The management formed a company "union" and were enjoined by Federal District Hutcheson of Houston. On appeal, the order was sustained by a two-to-one decision.

The award was a sweeping victory for the union clerks and a condemnation of the company "union."

This portion of the major decision, however, opens up a new field for hostile equity judges to gain greater control over workers:

"The term 'property right' is broad enough to include the right to make contracts for the acquisition of property, by the rendition of services, or otherwise, and the right of an employe to money or other property exchanged, or to be exchanged, for his service."

This new term for a personal right is evolved out of the United States Supreme Court's decision in the case of Coppage vs. Kansas, when the high court, in 1915, set aside a State law making it illegal to discharge a worker who belonged to a trade union.

If wages can be considered a "property right," as indicated by the Federal Court of Appeals, unlimited possibilities may result.

If wages or prospective wages are property, can an equity court sit in judgment over wage demands? Can a worker secure an injunction on the ground that a strike may lessen his earnings and thereby injure his "property"? Will the whole question of wages eventually be turned over to equity courts?

Decisions of this character are not immediately applied. They are invariably "warehoused" for future use, and are slowly developed through a long period of years.

### WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES

Oil City, Pa., July 6.—Electrical workers in this city raised wages 12½ cents an hour.

## *Lead Poisoning Is Harder To Cure Than Prevent, Says U. S. Bureau*

Washington, July 6.—It is easier to prevent lead poisoning than to cure this affliction, says the United States Public Health Service.

Lead poisoning is widespread and is one of the problems of industrial hygi ne. The principal industries and trades listed by the bureau in which workers are exposed to lead are: Lead mining, smelting and refining; the manufacture of paint, storage batteries, glazes, enamel, glass, rubber, varnish, pottery, plumbing, aniline dyes, putty, printers' ink and the refining of linseed oil. Printers, painters, commercial and mechanical artists, pottery decorators, plumbers and workers on lead telegraph and telephone cables and in metallurgy are exposed to lead poisoning.

"All persons do not react to lead in the same manner," the Public Health Service states. "Some are much more susceptible than others and children are more easily affected than adults. Cases have been reported of infants being poisoned from paint ingested while gnawing on their cribs.

"If the amount of lead is insufficient to produce acute poisoning and the worker continues in the occupation offering exposure he will develop lead poisoning in a chronic form, which is more difficult and more to overcome than the acute condition. A person who is absorbing lead poisoning gradually is obviously more susceptible to other illness because of his lowered resistance. The nervous system in general is affected. In the absorption of lead before coming into the body, however, it has an effect upon itself of this poison, and, as a consequence, small amounts of it are eliminated long after exposure to lead has ceased.

"Persons who have been exposed to lead should avoid constipation and otherwise aid elimination in every way. The saline purgatives are of particular value in removing lead, and a diet should be rich in calcium (cereals) and vitamins (certain leafy vegetables)."

## POWER TRUST DEPOSITS CAN SWAY SMALL BANKS

Washington, July 6.—"There is no substitute for deposits to get the banks to work with us," said one power trust magnate to another power trust magnate.

This tactic was urged by A. F. Heckenbeamer, president Pacific Gas and Electric Light Company, San Francisco, in a letter to A. W. Robertson, president Philadelphia Company, Pittsburgh. The letter was introduced at the Federal Trade Commission's hearing.

Documents put in the record show that one of the features of the power propaganda was to use bankers—especially small town bankers—to help the movement against government ownership or control, in addition to public schools, churches, the Rotarian Institution, women's clubs, text books and other agencies close to the people. The Heckenbeamer letter states:

"The bankers, as a rule, are economically minded, about as we are, but, nevertheless, we came to the conclusion that as a practical incentive to get them to work with us, there is no substitute for deposits. A worth while account, therefore, has been the keystone of our policy, and to assume it is a custom or a practice to regulate our balances in country banks from the head office."

### FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK WON IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pa., July 6.—A five-day week agreement has been signed by the Building Trades Council and the Building Trades Employers' Association. More than 18,000 workers are involved.

Several unions already have the shorter week. These include plasterers, lathers, electricians, bricklayers, stone cutters and stone masons.

### UNION OFFICIAL DIES

Montreal, Quebec, July 6.—Zotique Lesperance, member General Executive Board Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, died at his home in this city. He was a member of the board since 1905.

### WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Providence, R. I., July 6.—Painters won the five-day week and other building craftsmen are negotiating for similar conditions.

## SINGLE WORKER HAS NO EQUALITY; UNIONS PART OF INDUSTRIAL LIFE

By Colorado State Industrial Commission

Labor organizations are as much the product of modern industrial life as the corporation. There was a time when the individual workmen could bargain with his employer on something like equality. Industrial development has reached a point where it is impossible in many cases for the employe to deal as an individual with his employer.

In some cases the employer is a corporation with large amounts of invested capital and thousands of employes. Under these conditions it is impossible for the individual employe to bargain on an equal basis. In such a case it is no bargain at all.

The individual workman can accept the conditions named by the employer or look for other employment.

Very little freedom of contract can exist between a man who has nothing but his labor to sell and the employer who can do without the labor of any particular individual. Freedom of contract under such conditions is little more than an idle dream, because of the self-evident inequality.

The time has passed when an employer or owner can operate as he pleases. Such a policy is opposed to the common good. The employe must have the right to share in determining what his working conditions shall be.

## JUDGE GETS $20,000; AIDED ANTI-UNIONIST

Madison, Wis., July 6.—The expose of a $20,000 loan to Circuit Judge E. R. Belden of Racine by a Kenosha manufacturer, who is also a unionist to resign, declares the Capital Times of this city.

Judge Belden aided the Allen-A Hosiery Company in its long lock-out of hosiery workers. He recommended that the Kenosha grand jury appropriate $40,000 to investigate acts of violence that were charged to workers while hordes of private detectives were in that city. The appropriation was later declared illegal. The $20,000 loan was made by Z. G. Simmons. Judge Belden decided a case involving tax refunds to stockholders of the Simmons Company and the loan was charged off the company's books.

Judge Belden offers the excuse that his salary was insufficient to meet his needs, although he formerly received $6,500 a year and is now paid $10,500.

"If the Belden case is not unchallenged," says the Capital Times, "then we must say to every judge in Wisconsin and elsewhere that he had up it will be all right to borrow money from wealthy interests who may appear before the court for decision. And it will not be necessary to pay back principal and interest."

"The whole matter in this Belden hearing (before the State legislature) is the consummate daring displayed by Judge Belden and his attorney, Thomas M. Kearney, in offering such an excuse for the $20,000 loan. The unpaid $20,000 which Judge Belden accepted and the fact that not a dollar of the principal was ever paid back have exceeded Judge Belden's usefulness on the bench. He should resign."

## SOUTHERN WORKERS ORGANIZE UNIONS

Durham, N. C., July 6.—Every central body in this State but one has chartered a new local recently. While especial attention is being paid to textile workers, no class of labor is overlooked.

The Typographical Union has launched a drive, as have machinists, bricklayers, plumbers and common laborers. A union of the latter workers in Asheville, composed almost wholly of negroes, has increased its membership from 500 to 1,000.

A "war chest" finances the campaign and assists victimized workers. Contributions range from 25 cents to $1 a week.

### AUTO ACCIDENTS GROW

Washington, July 6.—Auto accidents continue to increase, according to the Department of Commerce. Reports from 74 cities show there were 602 deaths in the first week ending June 15, 1929. In the same period last year there were 596 deaths.

### SURPLUS OF LABOR

Portland, Ore., July 6.—State officials report a surplus of labor throughout Oregon. From every section "more help coming than we can place" is heard.

### STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Rock Island, Ill., July 6.—The annual convention of the Illinois Federation of Labor will convene here September 5.